



C L A S S I C

ISSUE 3

\$2.50 USA
\$3.00 CAN

STAR WARS®



ARCHIE GOODWIN • AL WILLIAMSON

AUS
A/N

Archie Goodwin
Writer

Al Williamson
Artist

Steve Buccellato
Colorist

Anina Bennett
Editor

Al Williamson
Cover artist

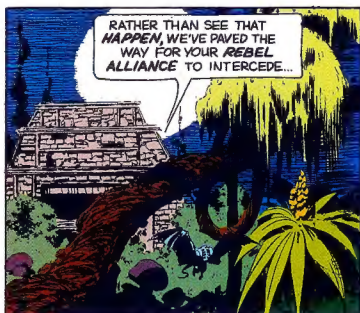
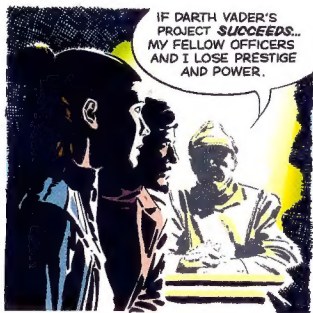
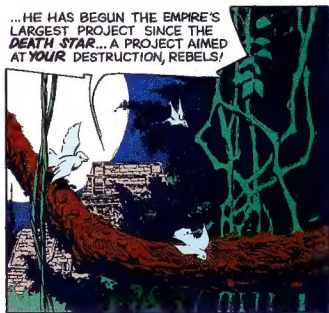
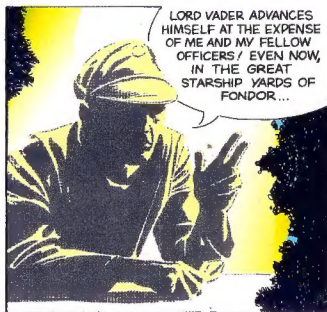
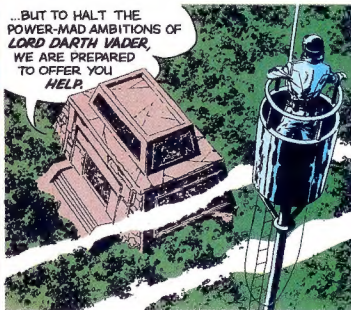
Debra Watts
Production artist

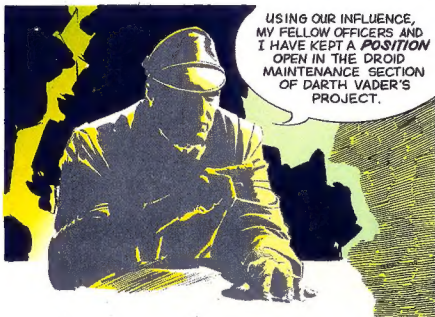
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.

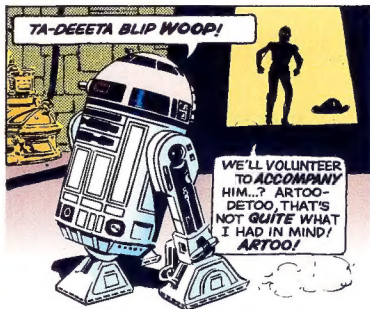
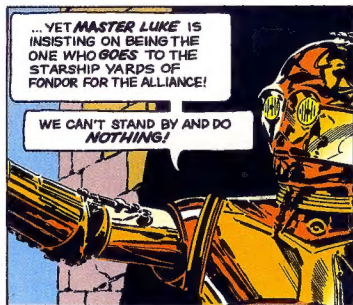
Mike Richardson ♦ publisher
Neil Hankerson ♦ v. p. of operations
Randy Stradley ♦ executive editor
Barbara Kesel ♦ managing editor
Ronnie Noize ♦ marketing director
Bob Schreck ♦ special projects director
Andy Karabatsos ♦ controller
Mark Anderson ♦ general counsel
Cece Cutsforth ♦ production director
Chris Chalenor ♦ production manager
Sean Tierney ♦ DTP manager

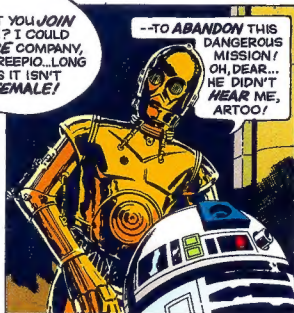
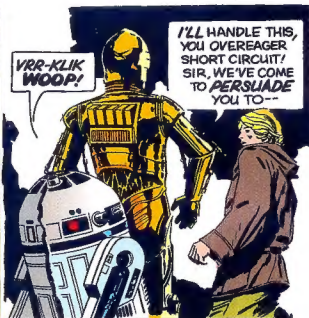
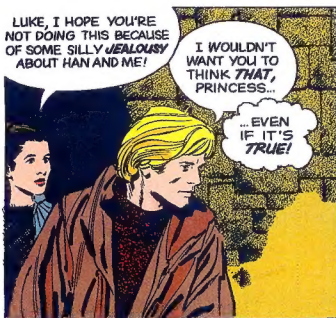
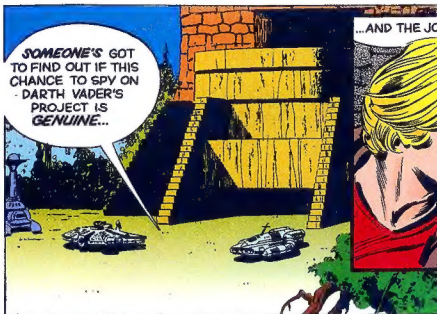
Classic Star Wars® #3, October 1992.
Published monthly by Dark Horse
Comics, Inc., 10956 SE Main Street,
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222.
Star Wars® © 1992 Lucasfilm Ltd. All
rights reserved. Used under
authorization. Text and illustrations for
Classic Star Wars® are © 1992
Lucasfilm Ltd. All other material,
unless otherwise specified, is © 1992
Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights
reserved. No part of this publication may
be reproduced by any means without
written permission from Lucasfilm Ltd. No
similarity between any of the names,
characters, persons, and/or institutions in
this publication and those of any
preexisting person or institution is
intended, and any similarity that may
exist is purely coincidental.
PRINTED IN CANADA.

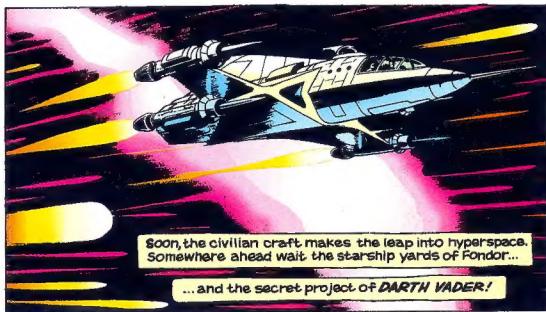
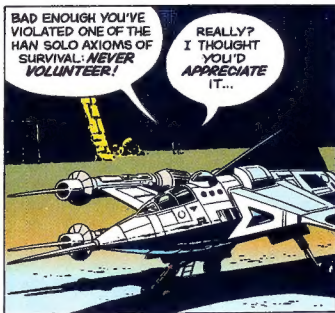










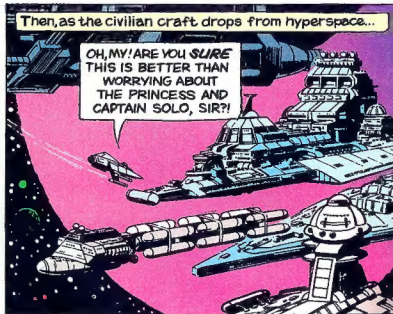




DEETA-WRRIT
TA-BLEET!

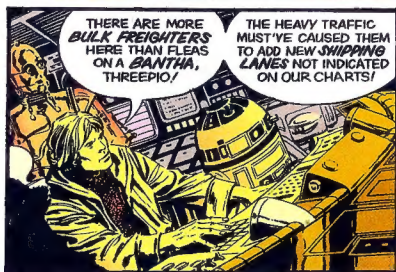
ARTOO SAYS WE'RE
APPROACHING
FONDOR,
MASTER
LUKE.

GREAT,
THREEPIO! I'LL
HAVE SOMETHING
BETTER TO
CONCENTRATE
ON THAN LEIA
AND HAN AND--



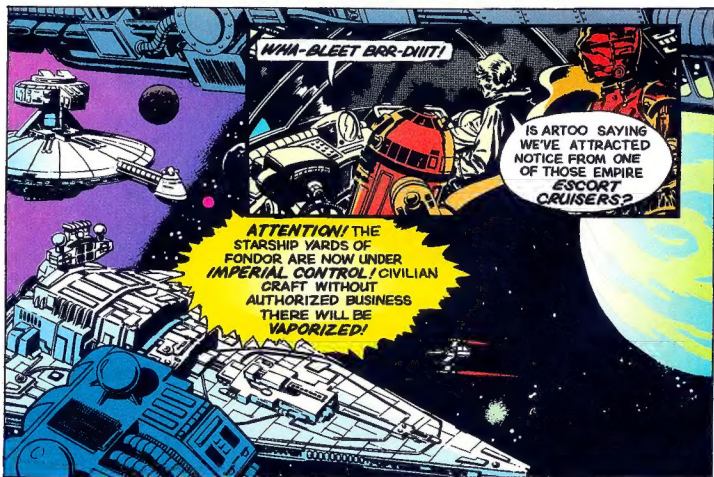
Then, as the civilian craft drops from hyperspace...

OH, MY! ARE YOU **SURE**
THIS IS BETTER THAN
WORRYING ABOUT
THE PRINCESS AND
CAPTAIN SOLO, SIR?



THERE ARE MORE
BULK FREIGHTERS
HERE THAN FLEAS
ON A **BANTHA**,
THREEPIO!

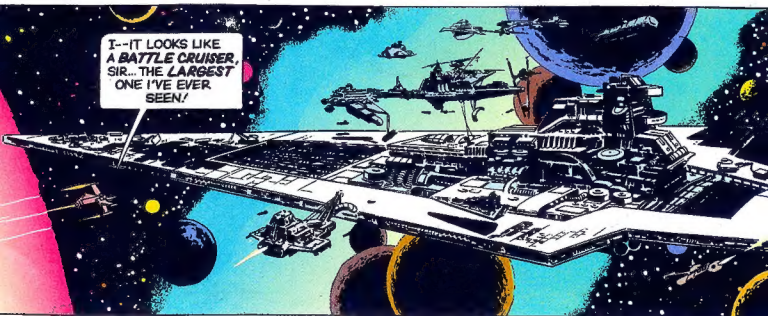
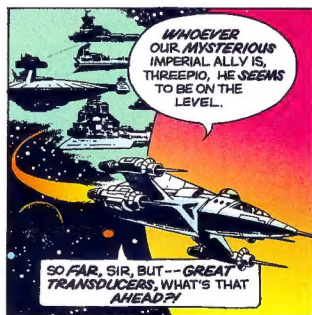
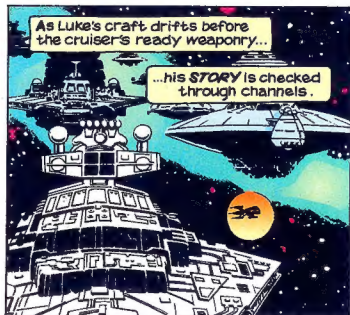
THE HEAVY TRAFFIC
MUST'VE CAUSED THEM
TO ADD NEW **SHIPPING**
LANES NOT INDICATED
ON OUR CHARTS!

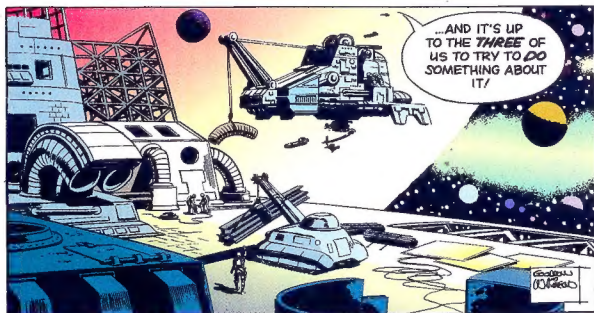


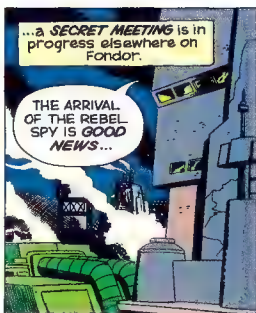
WHM-BLEET BRR-DIIT!

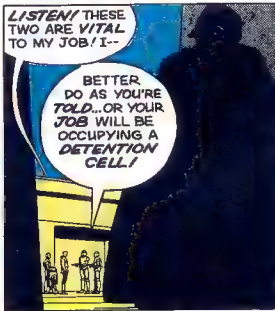
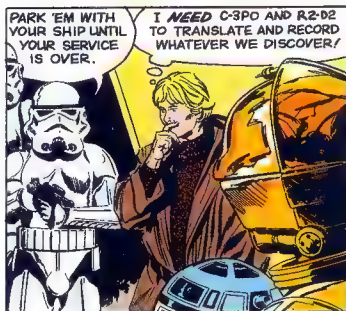
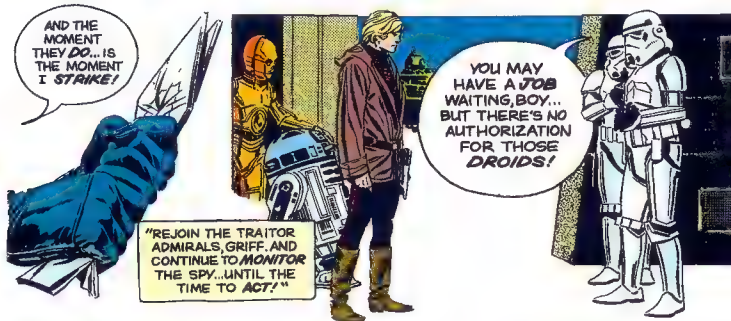
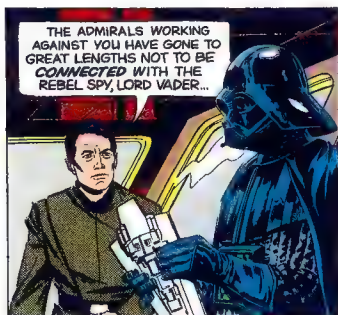
IS ARTOO SAYING
WE'VE ATTRACTED
NOTICE FROM ONE
OF THOSE EMPIRE
ESCORT
CRUISERS?

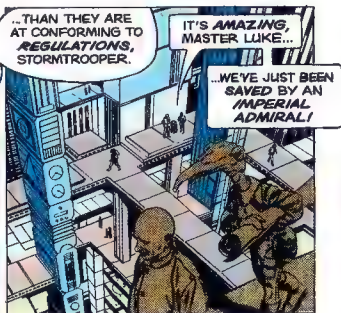
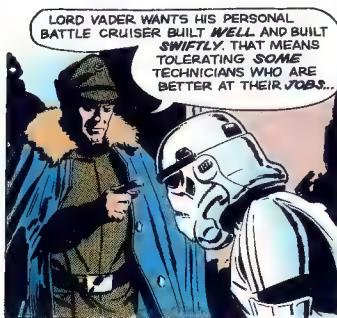
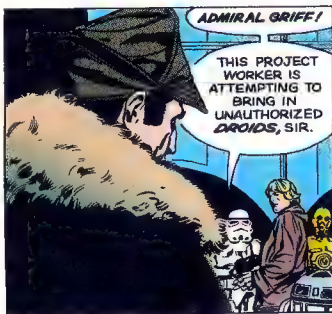
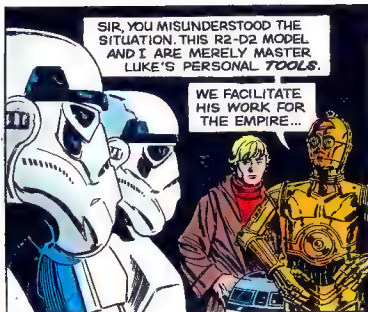
**ATTENTION! THE
STARSHIP YARDS OF
FONDOR ARE NOW UNDER
IMPERIAL CONTROL! CIVILIAN
CRAFT WITHOUT
AUTHORIZED BUSINESS
THERE WILL BE
VAPORIZED!**





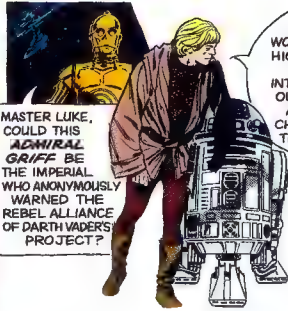






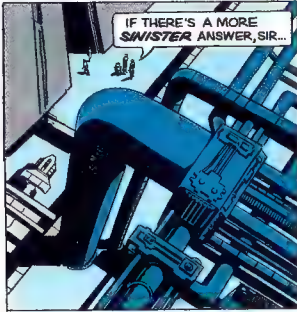


AN IMPERIAL ADMIRAL CREATED THIS CHANCE TO INFILTRATE DARTH VADER'S PROJECT, THREEPIO. I WONDER...



MASTER LUKE, COULD THIS ADMIRAL GRIFF BE THE IMPERIAL WHO ANONYMOUSLY WARNED THE REBEL ALLIANCE OF DARTH VADER'S PROJECT?

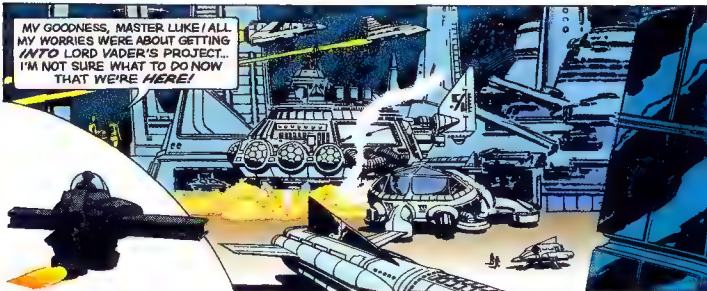
WHY ELSE WOULD SUCH A HIGH-RANKING OFFICER INTERCEDE ON OUR BEHALF AT THAT CHECKPOINT, THREEPIO?



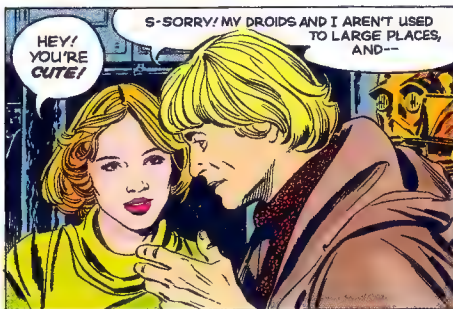
IF THERE'S A MORE SINISTER ANSWER, SIR...

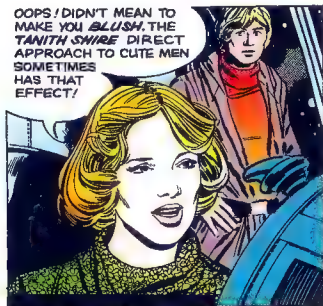
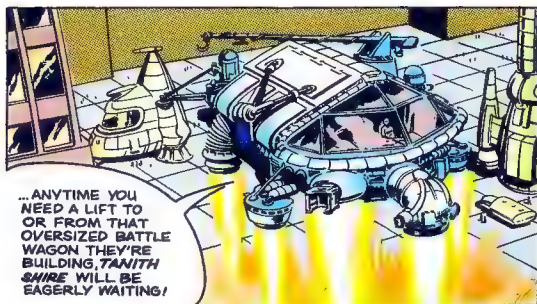
"...I'D RATHER NOT KNOW!"

HAVING ESTABLISHED CREDIBILITY WITH THE REBEL SPY... I CAN PROCEED WITH LORD VADER'S PLAN TO ENTRAP MY TRAITOROUS FELLOW ADMIRALS!



MY GOODNESS, MASTER LUKE / ALL MY WORRIES WERE ABOUT GETTING INTO LORD VADER'S PROJECT... I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO DO NOW THAT WE'RE HERE!





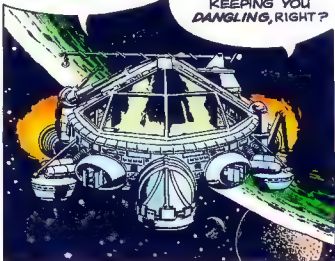
ALL RIGHT.
YOU CAN
BEGIN BY
CALLING ME
LUKE
INSTEAD
OF--

GREAT! LET'S CLEAR UP ANOTHER
IMPORTANT DETAIL...YOU MARRIED,
ENGAGED, OR
OTHERWISE
INVOLVED?



TANITH, THAT'S...
PERSONAL. I'M NOT...
THAT IS, I'M--

BLUSHING AGAIN!
THERE IS SOMEONE
ELSE...ONLY SHE'S
KEEPING YOU
DANGLING, RIGHT?

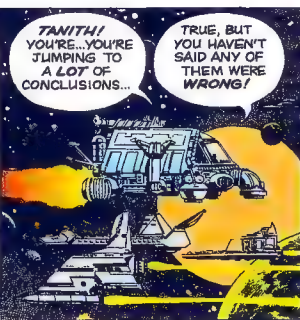
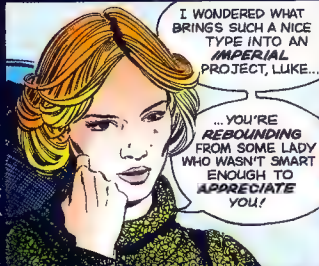


I WONDERED WHAT
BRINGS SUCH A NICE
TYPE INTO AN
IMPERIAL
PROJECT, LUKE...

...YOU'RE
REBOUNDING
FROM SOME LADY
WHO WASN'T SMART
ENOUGH TO
APPRECIATE
YOU!

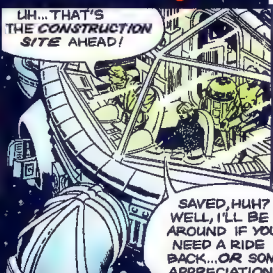
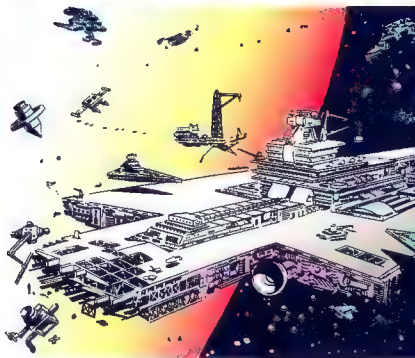
TANITH!
YOU'RE...YOU'RE
JUMPING TO
A LOT OF
CONCLUSIONS...

TRUE, BUT
YOU HAVEN'T
SAID ANY OF
THEM WERE
WRONG!

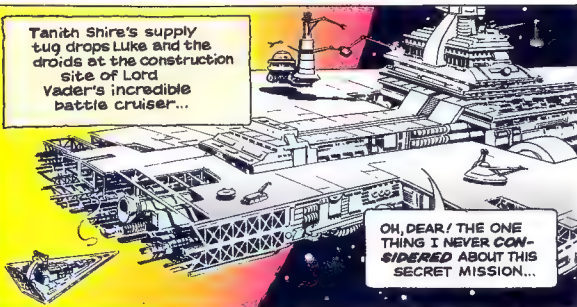


UH... THAT'S
THE CONSTRUCTION
SITE AHEAD!

SAVED, HUH?
WELL, I'LL BE
AROUND IF YOU
NEED A RIDE
BACK...OR SOME
APPRECIATION!

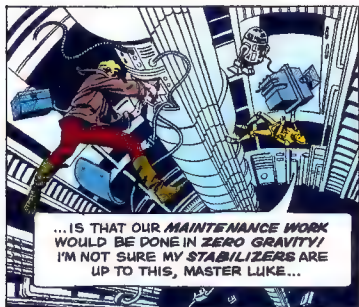


Tanith Shire's supply
tug drops Luke and the
droids at the construction
site of Lord
Vader's incredible
battle cruiser...

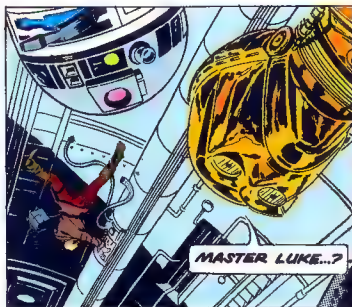


OH, DEAR! THE ONE
THING I NEVER CON-
SIDERED ABOUT THIS
SECRET MISSION...

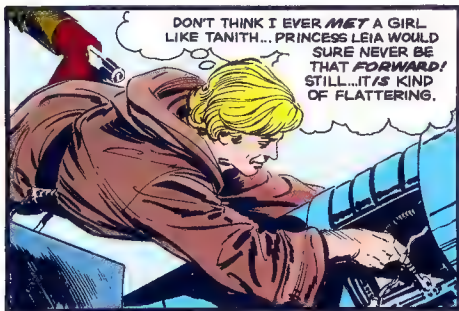
...IS THAT OUR *MAINTENANCE WORK*
WOULD BE DONE IN *ZERO GRAVITY*!
I'M NOT SURE MY *STABILIZERS* ARE
UP TO THIS, MASTER LUKE...

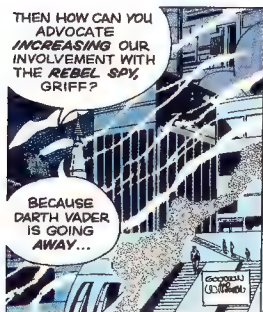
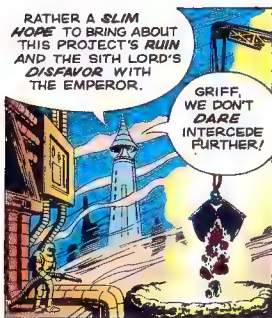
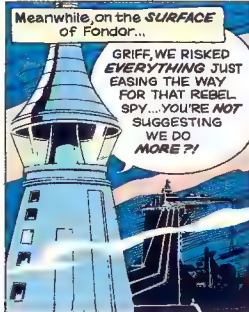


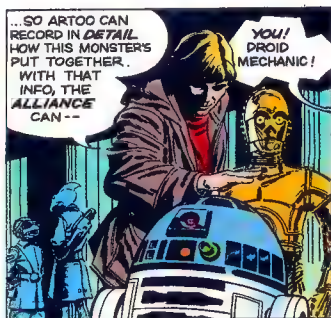
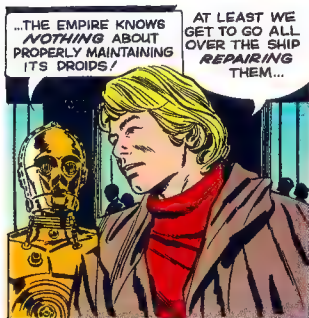
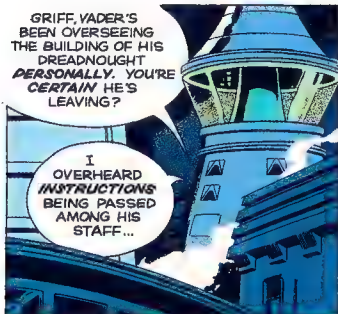
MASTER LUKE...?

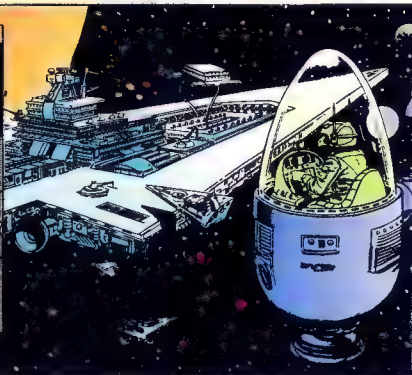
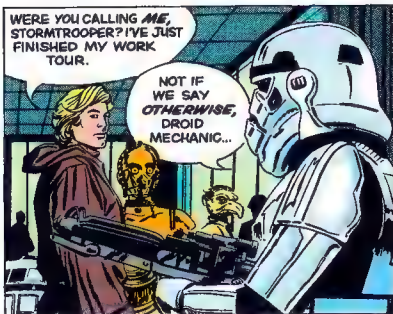


DON'T THINK I EVER *MET* A GIRL
LIKE TANITH... PRINCESS LEIA WOULD
SURE NEVER BE
THAT *FORWARD*!
STILL...IT'S KIND
OF FLATTERING.

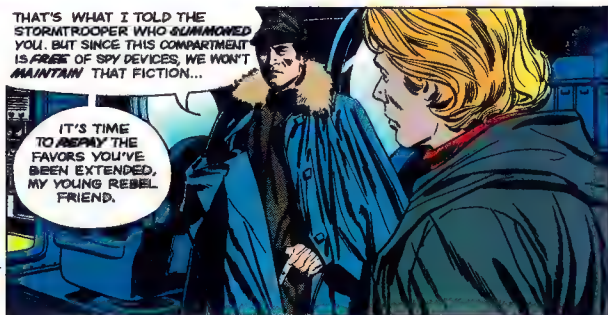








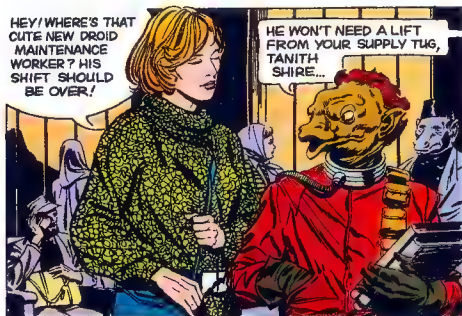
THAT'S WHAT I TOLD THE STORMTROOPER WHO *SUMMONED* YOU. BUT SINCE THIS COMPARTMENT IS *FREE* OF SPY DEVICES, WE WON'T *MAINTAIN* THAT FICTION...



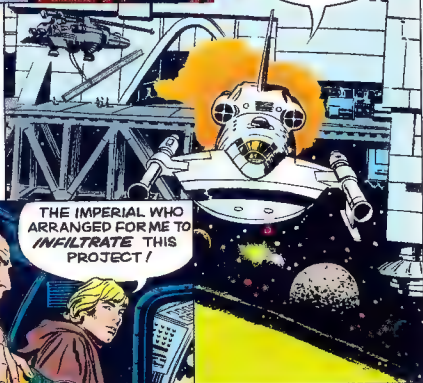
HEY! WHERE'S THAT
CUTE NEW DROID
MAINTENANCE
WORKER? HIS
SHIFT SHOULD
BE OVER!

HE WON'T NEED A LIFT
FROM YOUR SUPPLY TUG,
TANITH
SHIRE...

...HE GOT STUCK WITH A
LAST-MINUTE JOB, FROM
ADMIRAL GRIFF, NO LESS!

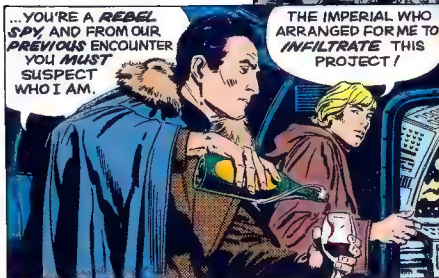


WE HAVE
UNTIL WE REACH
FONDOR TO TALK
SAFELY. LET'S
NOT BE
COY...



...YOU'RE A **REBEL**
SPY, AND FROM OUR
PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER
YOU **MUST**
SUSPECT
WHO I AM.

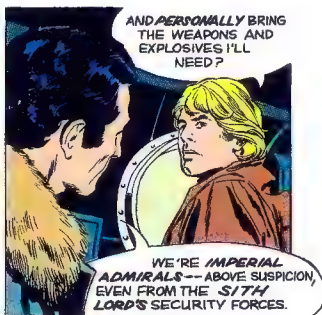
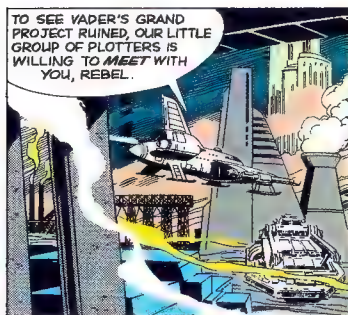
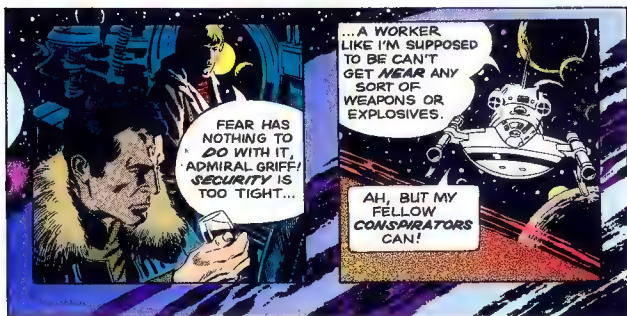
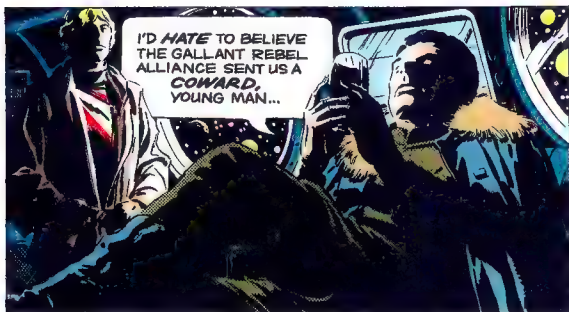
THE IMPERIAL WHO
ARRANGED FOR ME TO
INFILTRATE THIS
PROJECT!

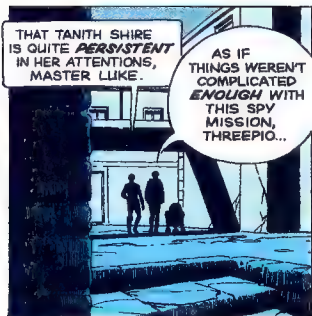
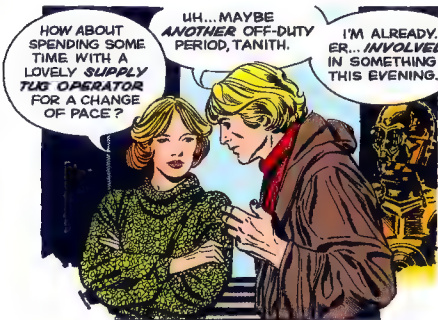
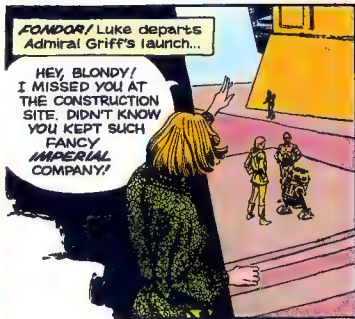


DARTH VADER'S BEING CALLED AWAY...
IT'S A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO
PROVIDE YOU WITH THE MEANS TO
SCUTTLE HIS
NEW BATTLE
CRUISER.

SABOTAGE?
PRETTY
DIFFICULT
FROM WHAT
I'VE SEEN.
MAYBE--







To the relief of the conspiring Admirals, the ship they saw Darth Vader board **LEAVES** the Fondor system.

But...

YOU HAD NO TROUBLE SLIPPING OFF BEFORE DEPARTURE, MY LORD?

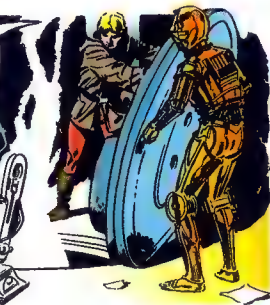
A MASTER OF THE **FORCE**?! COME, GRIFF! LET'S **FINISH** WITH THOSE TRAITORS... AND THE REBEL SPY!

Night settles over Fondor. And in the starship yard workers' compound...

...three figures move to keep a **RENDEZVOUS**.

FRANKLY, MASTER LUKE, I'VE A **BAD FEELING** ABOUT THIS.

THIS HATCH LEADS INTO THE **STEAM TUBES**--THEY RUN ALL OVER AN INDUSTRIAL PLANET LIKE FONDOR.





WE CERTAINLY SHOULDN'T
BE DISTURBED DOWN
THERE, SIR...

...NOT IF MY *OLFACTORY*
SENSORS ARE
REGISTERING CORRECTLY!



WELL, IF
A GROUP OF
IMPERIAL
ADMIRALS
CAN TAKE
IT, I GUESS
WE CAN.



BUT *OTHERS* ARE
ENTERING THE
MAZE OF TUNNELS...

MAKE
CERTAIN *ALL*
THE TRAITORS AND
THE REBEL SPY
ARE PRESENT,
GRIFF. THEN...

...YOU'LL
STRIKE,
MY LORD!

The adventure continues next
month in *CLASSIC STAR WARS* #4!

STELLAR scribes

c/o DARK HORSE COMICS • 10956 SE MAIN • MILWAUKIE, OR 97222



Dear Ms. Bennett,

You asked your readers to send in their special *Star Wars* memories, and since your *Classic Star Wars* #1 did indeed bring on one such memory from the deep recesses of my mind, I thought I'd share it with you. It involves the *Star Wars* newspaper strip, in fact.

Back when the strip originally premiered, I remember doing then what you guys are doing now, only not in quite so... ahem... refined a fashion. What I did was cut out the strips when they appeared each day and tape them end to end, excising any redundant panels, thus creating one endless strip of *Star Wars* adventures, which I stored by rolling up like a roll of Charmin (hey, no laughing at my sophisticated archival technique — I was just a kid!).

I remember that saving the Sunday installments was a particular challenge, since the height of the panels varied. This required some creative cropping from the tops and bottoms of some of the Sunday panels to make them fit on my ever-growing roll, but it worked out fairly well. In any event, before I knew it, that roll was several inches thick.

Unfortunately, I didn't keep the thing going to the end of the strip's run, since I got tired of making sure no one else in my house threw out the daily paper before I got to it, or spilled orange juice on the comics section, etc. It was also a pain to make sure someone bought the paper for me while I was away on vacation. But in any event, I did keep it going for about a year and a half, unraveling that roll occasion-

ally for some good rainy-day reading. I haven't seen or thought of that roll in years, though I'm sure it must be sitting in the back of a drawer somewhere. I'll have to look around for it now.

Well, as I said, thanks to your *Classic Star Wars* #1, you brought that fun little memory flying up through the cobwebs of this now-responsible, semi-jaded adult's mind. You should know, incidentally, that I'm finding your consolidation of these classic Goodwin/Williamson stories a little more polished than mine was way back when — and everything's in color, to boot.

So keep 'em coming! This time I'll have the complete run of this great adventure strip, and without hauling out the scissors and tape every day!

Joe Menta, Jr.
Philadelphia, PA

Thanks for the memories, Joe — I can almost picture you sprawled on the floor, surrounded by newsprint! As I'm sure you discovered, streamlining a comic-strip narrative into a (relatively) smooth comic-book story is no easy task. We've been doing our best to make Classic Star Wars look and read like a comic book rather than a collection of strips, and I'm glad to hear that our efforts aren't going unappreciated.

Dear Anina,

Okay, I'll admit it: the only reason I picked up *Classic Star Wars* #1 was because only a few of the comics I regularly buy came out this week. Me, a fan of the movies since I was five years old, who has almost

all the action figures after almost sixteen years. Me, who has read both Tim Zahn books and loves the current *Dark Empire* (more, please) mini-series. I saw *Star Wars* seven times in 1977, then in 1982 I got a copy of it on videotape and watched it every day after school for a month and could recite the dialogue along with the movie!

Well, the only reason I wasn't going to buy CSW was I thought it was going to be a straight reprint — boy, was I wrong. This doesn't even look like a newspaper strip; Al Williamson did a great job of redoing the strip art into comic art, and the story flowed smoothly. Whoever edited out all the recaps did a fine job. I never thought I'd say this, but I'll be back reading issue 2.

Don Cromie
Garfield Heights, OH

At last, something I can take full credit for! Yes, yours truly is responsible for determining the arrangement of panels and dialogue; our trusty production crew pastes everything up according to my directions, then we send the whole shebang to Al Williamson, who skillfully fills in the gaps. It's a fairly complicated process, and utterly unlike any other book I've worked on. If anyone's interested in a detailed explanation of how we put Classic Star Wars together, let me know and I'll work something up for a future issue.

Dear Dark Horse,

I have enjoyed both of your *Star Wars* titles very much. Thanks for continuing this epic saga. I've been a fan since the

first movie. I'm also a member of the Lucasfilm Fan Club.

The reason for this letter is to inform all of you that George Lucas will make a new *Star Wars* trilogy. The premise of the prequels will be a young Anakin Skywalker and Ben Kenobi and their adventures in their younger years. The only bad news is that the first film will premiere in 1997.

If you want to know all the latest on the films, just join the fan club. You'll get four issues of their magazine a year for \$9.95. [For info, write to:]

The Lucasfilm Fan Club
P.O. Box 111000
Aurora, CO 80042

I can't wait for your new *Star Wars* comics in '93. Dark Horse has recaptured the visuals and excitement of the original trilogy.

Aron Gonzalez
Los Angeles, CA

I'm sure this is welcome news for Star Wars fans everywhere, Aron! And that fan-club address is welcome news for me; many of our readers have been writing in with questions about Star Wars books, movies, and other projects, and I unfortunately don't have all the answers. Organizations such as the Lucasfilm Fan Club are far better sources of Star Wars information than one lowly, overworked editor!

Dear *Classic Star Wars*,

Ahh... let me catch my breath! *Classic Star Wars* #1 was fabulous! Han, Luke, and Leia... wow! They are just the way I remembered; it was amazing. Ever since I saw *Return of the Jedi* for the first time at the age of twelve inside a crowded theater, I have been captivated and intrigued by the saga. I became a *Star Wars* fanatic! I must've watched those movies a billion times. It really enriched my childhood, and to just be able to feel all those feelings again made my heart race.

While I began to read *CSW*

#1, I found myself laughing and smiling quietly to myself just like I did while watching the movies! All the characters were set perfectly into their proper perspectives... ah yes, Han is as smug as ever, always making light of a serious situation (his dialogue had perfect timing)! Luke's naiveté regenerated my young-adult crush, and I particularly enjoyed Leia's serious attitude towards "everything-rebellion and no playtime" (you know, it made me a little sad and concerned for her, as I'm sure it did Han).

I have one complaint, however, with Chris van Bremen's letter published in "*Stellar Scribes*" and Anina Bennett's reply to him that she would try to knock off a few of Han's "royalnesses and highnesses" — PLEASE don't tinker with the dialogue! I love it just the way it is. No offense to Chris, but I often marveled at Han's attempts to be repetitious when directing Leia. He did this on purpose to bug her, you know!

Thanks for the good time!

Rennie Cowan
Riverside, CA

Dear *Classic Star Wars*,

My memories of the *Star Wars* newspaper strip are of the 1979 comic, which began with C3PO narrating stories to a giant computer. These stories, by Russ Manning and Don Christensen, were puerile at best, with stories such as "Princess Leia, Imperial Servant" and "Bring Me the Children" standing out as the most ridiculous (but hey, to a ten-year-old at the time, it was fabulously entertaining stuff). The Manning/Christensen strips went on for a couple of years, until the Goodwin/Williamson strips began. Unfortunately, the local newspaper that was carrying the strip decided to cancel it after the "Bounty Hunter of Ord Mantell" storyline that you are currently reprinting. At the time, I believed that the *Star*

Wars strip itself was being cancelled; I never knew there were more Goodwin/Williamson stories. It will be interesting to see those stories that I missed over ten years ago.

Since I still have most of the original strips pasted in a scrapbook (Sunday strips only), it was a thrill to see them reprinted in *Classic Star Wars* #1. It is interesting how you have "cut-and-pasted" these strips to fit the comic-book format while enlarging certain panels and removing other redundant ones. The expansion of the panels on page 4 to include new art was a surprise; at first I wondered if I had seen those panels in the original. Although I don't have any of the daily strips, I would have to guess that page 6 is the new story page.

Is there any chance of reprinting those Manning/Christensen strips from before the Goodwin/Williamson era? For example, I never managed to read the ending of the very first storyline from back in 1979 (due to our newspaper subscription mysteriously running out for about a month). Or how about "Han Solo at Stars' End," by Brian Daley, Archie Goodwin, and Alfredo P. Alcala, which ran between the end of the Manning/Christensen and the beginning of the Goodwin/Williamson strips?

James L. Kwak
Richmond, KY

You're right about page 6, James — sharp eyes!

We're not currently planning on reprinting the Russ Manning strips or "Han Solo at Stars' End," but if there's enough demand for them, we may change our plans. So get your votes in now, folks — we'll tally 'em up and let you know the results!

*In the meantime, turn the page and feast your eyes on a hitherto unpublished *Star Wars* pinup by Al Williamson himself. See you next month!*

—Anina Bennett



DCP

PRESENTS A
SCAN BY

DARTH SCANNER

*Leeching leads to the Dark Side of the Force.
A good Jedi buys comics and supports the industry!*